

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed. The concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents is found in the attached English Abstracts thereof and at page 3 of the specification. In addition, European Patent No. 0725529 corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Application No. 8-241403.

FORMAL MATTERS

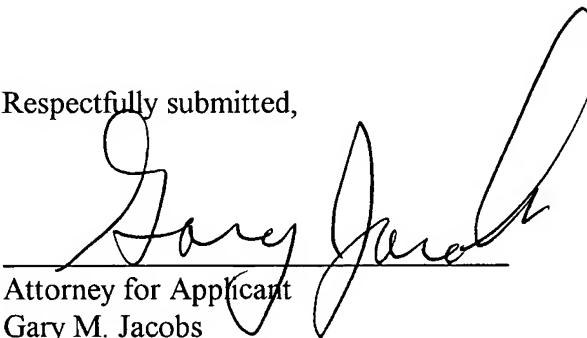
No fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next official communication indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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(Concurrently Filed Herewith)APPLICANT
TOMOCHIKA MURAKAMIFILING DATE
June 23, 2003GROUP
Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		2000-184173	6/30/2000	Japan			Abstract
		8-256321	10/1/1996	Japan			Abstract
		8-241403	9/17/1996	Japan			Abstract
		EP 0 725 529 A2	6/25/1996	European			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1